

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shelby Abdilah, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

Captioning, also known as same-language subtitles, benefits everyone who watches videos (children, adolescents, college students, and adults). More than 100 empirical studies document that captioning a video improves comprehension of, attention to, and memory for the video. Captions are particularly beneficial for persons watching videos in their non-native language, for children and adults learning to read, and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I support the open captioning bill because open captions are an example of universal design that not only provides access to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, but English language learners, autistic people, those with auditory processing issues and hearing people like me. I am able to more thoroughly enjoy and understand movies when using captions because I catch names or lines that may not be clearly spoken. I urge you to pass this bill and create universal accessibility for all moviegoers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shelby Abdilah  
shelby.abdilah@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Adeniyi Michael Adekoya, and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I believe that movie theaters should make an effort to have accommodations for the deaf, blind, and hard of hearing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Adeniyi Michael Adekoya  
adekoya1020@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shana Ahmad, and I am Hearing. I live in Calvert County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Twenty seven years have passed since I moved to Maryland and still not a lot of progress regarding open captioning in movie theaters.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Shana Ahmad  
shanakhan@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Gerald W. Ahrens and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Ahrens  
Jerry8ahrens@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Rita Ann Ahrens, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Rita Ann Ahrens  
ritaahrens2@aol.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Olugbenga Aina, and I am Hard of Hearing. I live in Prince George's County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Have lost count of how many times I accompanied family, especially my minor children, to uncaptioned movies they've wanted to see only to fall asleep and disturb the whole theatre with my snoring because ...not captioned. I've just paid good money for that.

In all seriousness, this is an equity issue.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Olugbenga Aina  
bunmiaina@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Meghan Hazer Álvarez and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

This is important to me because people with audio impairments should be able to enjoy theater too, and also those who speak a first language other than English (like my husband, whose first language is Spanish) would be more able to enjoy movies at theaters. Captions, even for the same language spoken in the audio, help ESL folks differentiate the words in settings like a movie where there are a lot of different audio things going on that can obscure words for a non native speaker. It would be good for business too I'd imagine, as we usually watch movies at home so we can use English subtitles and he can enjoy it with me (When movies are in Spanish, I opt for Spanish-speaking subtitles for the same reason). I'm sure there are others like us in Baltimore. This seems like a win win , and I'm hoping to see it so we can more often support our local theaters!

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Meghan Hazer Álvarez  
meghan.hazer@baltimorecity.gov

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Samuela Ansah, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Samuela Ansah  
SamuelaA@DisabilityRightsMD.Org

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Stella Antonio, and I am Deaf. I live in Baltimore County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I want the bill to be equal for all to enjoy and watch movies anytime and anywhere accessible is available.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Stella Antonio  
Scorpiostar1109@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Larisa Aranbayeva, and I am Deaf. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Larisa Aranbayeva  
larisa.aran@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Shivani Arya, and I am Hearing. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Since I watched the open-captioned movie at the movie theaters, I saw lots of moviegoers learning to read English or foreign languages and impressively communicating with peers. It indeed benefits improving general literacy. I think open captioning in theaters is more user-friendly than personal captioning technology. Open Captioning at movie theaters should let deaf and hard of hearing people enjoy movies the same way as hearing people do. I remember watching the on-screen captioned Oscar-winning movie "CODA" made me support this bill for more accessible theater experiences. My kid and her friends, who are not deaf, said open captioning is more healthier for everyone because it increases comprehensive skills including reading skills and writing skills.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Shivani Arya  
rgf123@hotmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Clara Asumadu, and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Clara Asumadu  
clara.asumadu1@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Cheyenne Atkins and I am Hearing. I live in Baltimore City.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

As a sign language interpreter, it is imperative that communication access be accessible for all moviegoers including those that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Cheyenne Atkins  
Cheyenneatkins.grant@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Helen Avner, and I am Hearing. I live in Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Helen Avner  
helen@helenrubin.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Trudi Baer, and I am Hearing. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Trudi Baer  
baers4d56@verizon.net

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Carol Baker and I am Deaf. I live in Anne Arundel County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Carol Baker  
Canport88@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Jenny Ballard, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

I want to be able to watch any movie at any time. While I'm grateful for technology, it's hard watching movies with a device. I often have to stay still and quickly look at the screen to get a full view and then back at the captions. It's worse when you're crying during a movie! Open captions allow me to enjoy viewing to the fullest.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Ballard  
jennyballard2@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Richard Ballard, and I am Deaf. I live in Frederick County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,  
Richard Ballard  
rickballard33@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heather Barrato and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Heather Barrato  
hwbarrato@gmail.com

February 16, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
State Capitol  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

My name is Heather Beck and I am Hearing. I live in Howard County.

I am writing to ask you to support **SB 400 - Open Captioning Movie Bill**, sponsored by Senator Benjamin Brooks and Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill will require all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and require that certain motion picture houses provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.

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Most importantly, the bill provides communities with the assurance and peace of mind that they have access to the movie without using devices or other methods same as other people who go to the movie.

Deaf Son who absolutely needs open captioning.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I appreciate your support on SB 400.

Sincerely,

Heather Beck  
Heathermariebeck.kjmom@gmail.com